

## **Press Release**

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### **Cynthia Maltby Receives “Alley” Career Achievement Award from the AbilityOne Program**

For 25 years, Cindy Maltby, Program Manager, has supported the AbilityOne (formerly Javits-Wagner-O’Day or JWOD) Program, and she is currently one of its most widely recognized ambassadors within the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Department of the Interior. This award was established in 1998 by the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled (Committee), in honor of the late E. Richard “Dick” Alley, who provided more than 25 years of dedicated service to the AbilityOne Program as the Committee’s Deputy Executive Director.

“For more than 25 years, Ms. Maltby has been a true advocate of the AbilityOne Program’s employment mission, and she is thoroughly deserving of this honor,” said Andrew D. Houghton, Committee Chairperson. “Her willingness to open new doors of opportunity for people who are blind or have other severe disabilities, coupled with her thorough knowledge of the AbilityOne Program has allowed her to provide numerous Federal agencies with the quality products and services they need while creating quality opportunities for high-wage employment for people who are blind or have other severe disabilities.”

Ms. Maltby’s first exposure to the Program was in 1981, during her tenure at the David Taylor Naval Ship R&D Center, Carderock, MD. She acquired firsthand knowledge of the “JWOD” Program and quality supplies that she purchased at the base supply store. Later in her Federal career, she worked for Congress, where she learned to advocate for the Program, relentlessly working to persuade the House Office Supply Store to carry more blind-made products. After Congress, Ms. Maltby worked for a large Office Supply Company in the Government Purchasing Department where she provided the necessary training and expertise to sell to the government.

In 1992, Ms. Maltby joined the Office of Acquisition and Property Management, Department of the Interior. Paul Denett (the first E.R. Dick Alley, Jr. Award recipient) recognized Ms. Maltby’s passion for helping persons with disabilities achieve the American Dream. He created the first and only JWOD Program Manager position in the Federal Government.

In 1994, the Committee established Interior as an Ex-Officio Member; with Ms. Maltby serving as the Liaison and Mr. Denett as the Ex-Officio Member. Ms. Maltby continued to represent the Department after Mr. Denett’s retirement in 2001. The JWOD

Community has consistently recognized Ms. Maltby for her staunch commitment and dedication to the Program.

The Secretary of Interior recognized Ms. Maltby with Interior's highest honor award, the Distinguished Honor Award, for her exceptional work with the JWOD Community. Ms. Maltby received the Superior and Meritorious Honor Awards, as well, for her extraordinary commitment and outstanding achievements with the JWOD Program.

Ms. Maltby was the initiator and driving force behind the highly successful custodial contract at one of America's high profile landmarks, the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. This contract employs more than 16 persons with severe disabilities. Her hard work and dedication to the Program since 1992 has resulted in more than 100 jobs for persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities. She has provided many hours of instruction to her colleagues about the Program in the context of outsourcing, greening and general disability awareness training. She also conducted workshops for Interior acquisition and property conferences, bureau acquisition training and Governmentwide and Departmentwide acquisition intern programs.

In her current position, Ms. Maltby provides invaluable assistance to AbilityOne staff by identifying contracting, training and exhibiting opportunities, providing feedback on marketing and educational efforts, and encouraging AbilityOne support throughout the Executive Office of the President. Ms. Maltby continues to be a true champion of the AbilityOne Program.

The Alley Award is intended to recognize individuals who have provided extraordinary achievement and sustained effort in utilizing the Federal procurement system to create employment and training opportunities for people who are blind or have other severe disabilities under the AbilityOne Program. It is the highest honor awarded by the Committee and is presented to no more than one individual a year.

Ms. Maltby was formally presented the award at the NISH National Training and Achievement Conference in Grapevine, TX, on April 29, 2007, and will also be presented the award at the NIB National Training Conference in Chicago, IL, November 14-17, 2007.

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The Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled is the independent Federal agency that administers the AbilityOne (formerly Javits-Wagner-O'Day or JWOD) Program, which creates jobs and training opportunities for persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities. National Industries for the Blind (NIB) and NISH (serving people with a range of disabilities) are two nonprofit organizations designated by the Committee to help Federal agencies and nonprofit organizations that employ persons with severe disabilities participate in the AbilityOne Program. The Committee's primary means of achieving its employment goal is through facilitating Government purchases of supplies and services from nonprofit agencies employing such individuals.